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I HAVE BEEN A MAJOR Google user for about 7 years. My Google Doc list is four times as long as my documents list on my computer. Everything is in the Google Cloud! I even bought extra space for my pictures on Picasa (since my desktop computer at home almost died one day...I felt good about having Google having a hand in making sure I wouldn't lose any pictures!). Google is always adding, changing and adapting to what people say they want.

Google+ rival to Facebook?

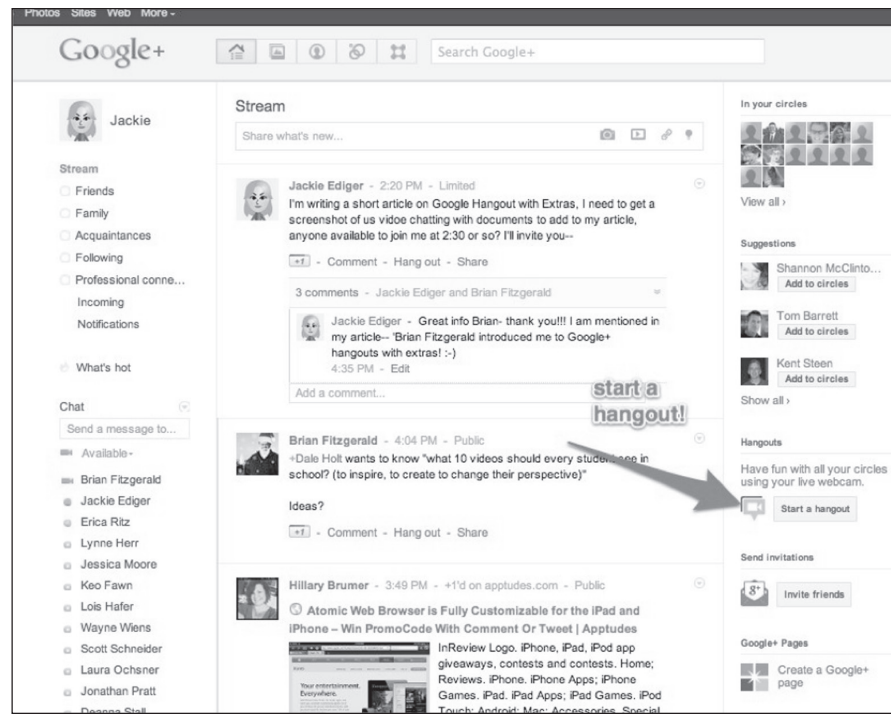
Google+ is a possible rival to Facebook. I like Facebook because that is where all my friends are located. I love touching base with people I don't get to see very often and seeing pictures of long lost friends' families. The friends I have on Google+ so far are persons like me who use a lot of technology and LOVE to use Google tools.

New favorite

My newest favorite tool in Google is a part of Google+: *Google Hangout with Extras*. Google Hangout is a video conferencing service that Google has within Google+. It works great, can be used with up to 10 people, but you are thinking, "I already have iChat, Skype, Google Talk and Facetime, so seriously, why would I need ANOTHER video chatting tool?!!!"

Google+ Hangout With Extras!

My New Favorite Tool!



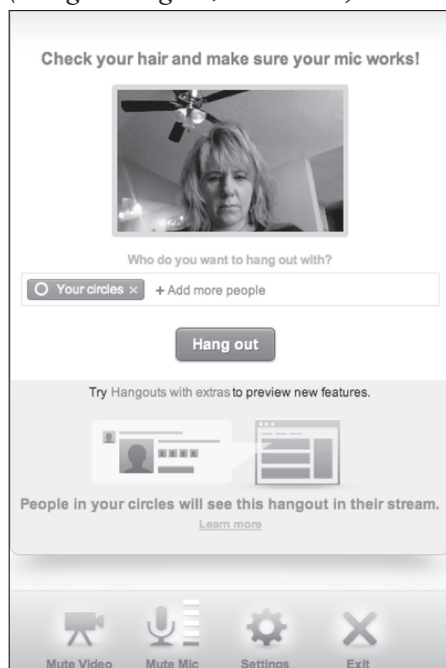
Google+, Google Hangout with Extras was introduced to me by Brian Fitzgerald from Lincoln Public Schools. During a planning session for a summer event, six of us throughout the state had a video conference. There was a small video with each of us down the right side, a chat window in the lower left, and then in the upper left a list of Google Documents to share with the group! It starts you out with 'Notes' – a blank document to take notes on and sketchpad to draw on (more fun than useful in meetings). Brian shared a couple documents with the group...and voila! just like google magic, the entire group could see the documents and they were added to their list of Google Docs.

This service is currently in Beta, but I am seeing some great possibilities and the cost for Google+ Hangout with Extras is FREE! I have used Adobe Connect for video conferencing, and it was also a learning curve to get going with a group of people. The recording feature was great, but I don't know if I used it enough to get my money's worth.

Let's get started! If you have a Google account, on the classic Google page or on your iGoogle page, click the +You in the top left corner of your screen. This will get you going in Google+. From here, you will see your Google+ page. You can now invite anyone with a Google account to be your friend.

Once you invite people, then you can start your hangout. A hangout is just a video conference for up to ten people—the *Hangout with Extras* allows you
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(Google Hangout, continued)

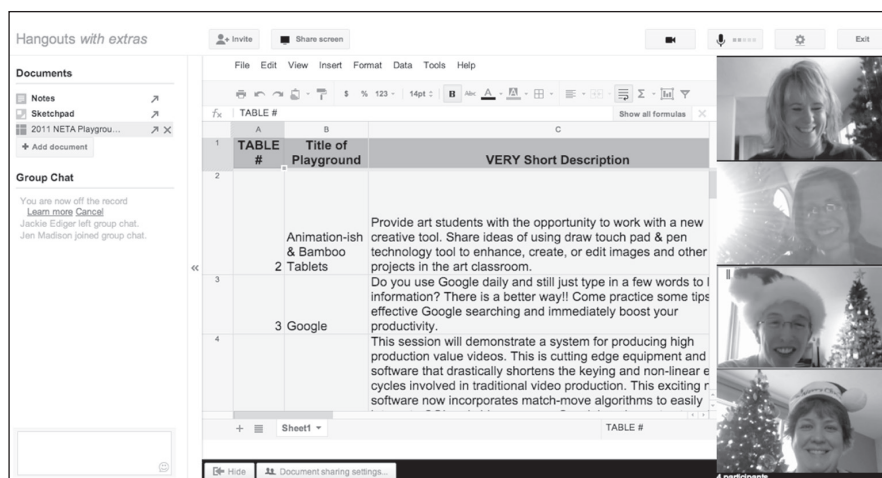


For questions about Google+ Hangout with Extras, email Jackie at jediger@esu11.org ❖

to take notes as a group on a Google Doc and share other Google docs with people in the hangout.

Thank you to my friends Jen Madison, Lucas Bingham, and Lynne Herr for joining me in my hangout today so I could include these screenshots!

THE DOWNSIDE: This does not work within your school Google domain, which disappoints me. However, Google listens when requests are made of their services, so I hope to see it added there soon.



Meetings for NETA Sponsored Groups

Tech Coordinators

There has been a change of venue for the Tech Coordinators' meeting in February. The date is still the same, Wednesday, February 15, 2012. The meeting will now be held at ESU #9 in Hastings, NE in the JVW Conference Room.

1:1 Initiative

The next meeting will be held January 31, 2012 at ESU10 in Kearney. A working agenda will follow. Register at <https://odie.esu10.org/workshops>.

To check on the status of meetings and/or agendas, go to <http://netasite.org>.

Under the main menu, click on "Sponsored Groups." ❖

NETA Logo for 2012 Chosen!

The winning design for the NETA Logo Contest is by Abigail Swanson at the Lincoln Public Schools Information Technology Focus Program. Abigail is a sophomore. Teacher sponsor is Steve Carr. Thanks to the contest coordinator, Jason Rushing from LPS. ❖

